

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 21, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY AUGUST 5, 2014

AMENDED IN ASSEMBLY JUNE 4, 2014

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 21, 2014

AMENDED IN SENATE APRIL 2, 2014

SENATE BILL

No. 1409

Introduced by Senator Hill

February 21, 2014

An act to ~~amend Section 321.6 of~~ *add Section 915 to* the Public Utilities Code, relating to the Public Utilities Commission.

LEGISLATIVE COUNSEL'S DIGEST

SB 1409, as amended, Hill. Public Utilities Commission: safety investigations.

The California Constitution establishes the Public Utilities Commission with regulatory authority over public utilities and authorizes the commission to establish its own procedures, subject to statutory limitations or directions and constitutional requirements of due process. ~~Existing law~~ *The Public Utilities Act requires the commission to publish and maintain certain documents and information and make specified materials available on the commission's Internet Web site. The act* requires the commission to submit certain information about its activities to the Governor and the Legislature no later than February 1 of each year, including a work plan describing its scheduled ratemaking proceedings, an accounting of its transactions and proceedings, and a report on the number of cases where resolution of the case exceeded

the time periods prescribed in scoping memos and on the number of days that commissioners presided in hearings.

~~This bill, with respect to this annual submission of information, would also require the commission to provide a succinct description of each open staff safety investigation and each staff safety investigation concluded during the prior calendar year, including the month of the safety incident, the reason for the investigation, the facility type involved, and the owner of the facility.~~

This bill would require the commission, beginning February 1, 2016, to annually publish a report that includes all investigations into gas or electric service safety incidents reported, pursuant to commission requirements, by any gas corporation or electrical corporation including the month of the safety incident, the reason for the investigation, the facility type involved, and the owner of the facility. The bill would require that the report succinctly describe safety investigations concluded during the prior calendar year and investigations that remain open. The bill would require that the work plan submitted to the Governor and the Legislature include a summary of staff safety investigations concluded during the prior calendar year and staff safety investigations that remain open for any gas corporation or electrical corporation, with a link to the Internet Web site with the report that contains the above-described information that the commission is required to annually report.

Vote: majority. Appropriation: no. Fiscal committee: yes.
State-mandated local program: no.

The people of the State of California do enact as follows:

1 SECTION 1. Section 915 is added to the Public Utilities Code,
2 to read:
3 915. (a) Beginning February 1, 2016, the commission shall
4 annually publish a report that includes all investigations into gas
5 or electric service safety incidents reported, pursuant to
6 commission requirements, by any gas corporation or electrical
7 corporation. The report shall succinctly describe each safety
8 investigation concluded during the prior calendar year and each
9 investigation that remains open. The categories within the
10 description shall include the month of the safety incident, the
11 reason for the investigation, the facility type involved, and the
12 owner of the facility.

1 ***(b) The commission shall include in its work plan required***
2 ***pursuant Section 321.6, a summary of the staff safety investigations***
3 ***concluded during the prior calendar year and the staff safety***
4 ***investigations that remain open for any gas corporation or***
5 ***electrical corporation, with a link to the Internet Web site with the***
6 ***report that contains the information required pursuant to***
7 ***subdivision (a).***

8 ~~SECTION 1.—Section 321.6 of the Public Utilities Code is~~
9 ~~amended to read:~~

10 ~~321.6.—(a) The commission shall do all of the following:~~

11 ~~(1) Develop, publish, and annually update an annual work plan~~
12 ~~that describes in clear detail the scheduled ratemaking proceedings~~
13 ~~and other decisions that may be considered by the commission~~
14 ~~during the calendar year. The plan shall include, but is not limited~~
15 ~~to, information on how members of the public and ratepayers can~~
16 ~~gain access to the commission's ratemaking process and~~
17 ~~information regarding the specific matters to be decided. The plan~~
18 ~~shall also include information on the operation of the office of the~~
19 ~~public adviser and identify the names and telephone numbers of~~
20 ~~those contact persons responsible for specific cases and matters~~
21 ~~to be decided. The plan shall also include a statement that specifies~~
22 ~~activities that the commission proposes to reduce the costs of, and~~
23 ~~rates for, energy, including electricity, and for improving the~~
24 ~~competitive opportunities for state agriculture and other rural~~
25 ~~energy consumers. The commission shall post the plan under the~~
26 ~~official documents area of its Internet Web site and shall develop~~
27 ~~a program to disseminate the information in the plan utilizing~~
28 ~~computer mailing lists to provide regular updates on the~~
29 ~~information to those members of the public and organizations~~
30 ~~which request that information.~~

31 ~~(2) Produce a complete accounting of its transactions and~~
32 ~~proceedings for the preceding year, together with other facts,~~
33 ~~suggestions, and recommendations that it deems of value to the~~
34 ~~people of the state and a statement that specifies the activities and~~
35 ~~achievements of the commission in reducing the costs of, and rates~~
36 ~~for, energy, including electricity, for state agriculture and other~~
37 ~~rural energy consumers.~~

38 ~~(3) Create a report on the number of cases where resolution~~
39 ~~exceeded the time periods prescribed in scoping memos and the~~
40 ~~days that commissioners presided in hearings.~~

1 ~~(4) Describe succinctly in a report each open staff safety~~
2 ~~investigation and each staff safety investigation concluded during~~
3 ~~the prior calendar year. The categories within the description shall~~
4 ~~include the month of the safety incident, the reason for the~~
5 ~~investigation, the facility type involved, and the owner of the~~
6 ~~facility.~~

7 ~~(5) Submit annually the work plan, accounting, and reports~~
8 ~~required by paragraphs (1), (2), (3), and (4) to the Governor and~~
9 ~~Legislature no later than February 1 of each year.~~

10 ~~(b) The president of the commission shall annually appear before~~
11 ~~the appropriate policy committees of the Senate and Assembly to~~
12 ~~report on the annual work plan access guide of the commission~~
13 ~~required pursuant to this section.~~

14 ~~(c) The president of the commission shall annually appear before~~
15 ~~the appropriate policy committees of the Senate and Assembly to~~
16 ~~report on the annual report of the commission on the number of~~
17 ~~cases where resolution exceeded the time periods prescribed in~~
18 ~~seoping memos and the days that commissioners presided in~~
19 ~~hearings, pursuant to Section 13 of Chapter 856 of the Statutes of~~
20 ~~1996.~~